

Introduction to the Belgian Health system

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P. Maldague
Absym-Bvas

Belgium

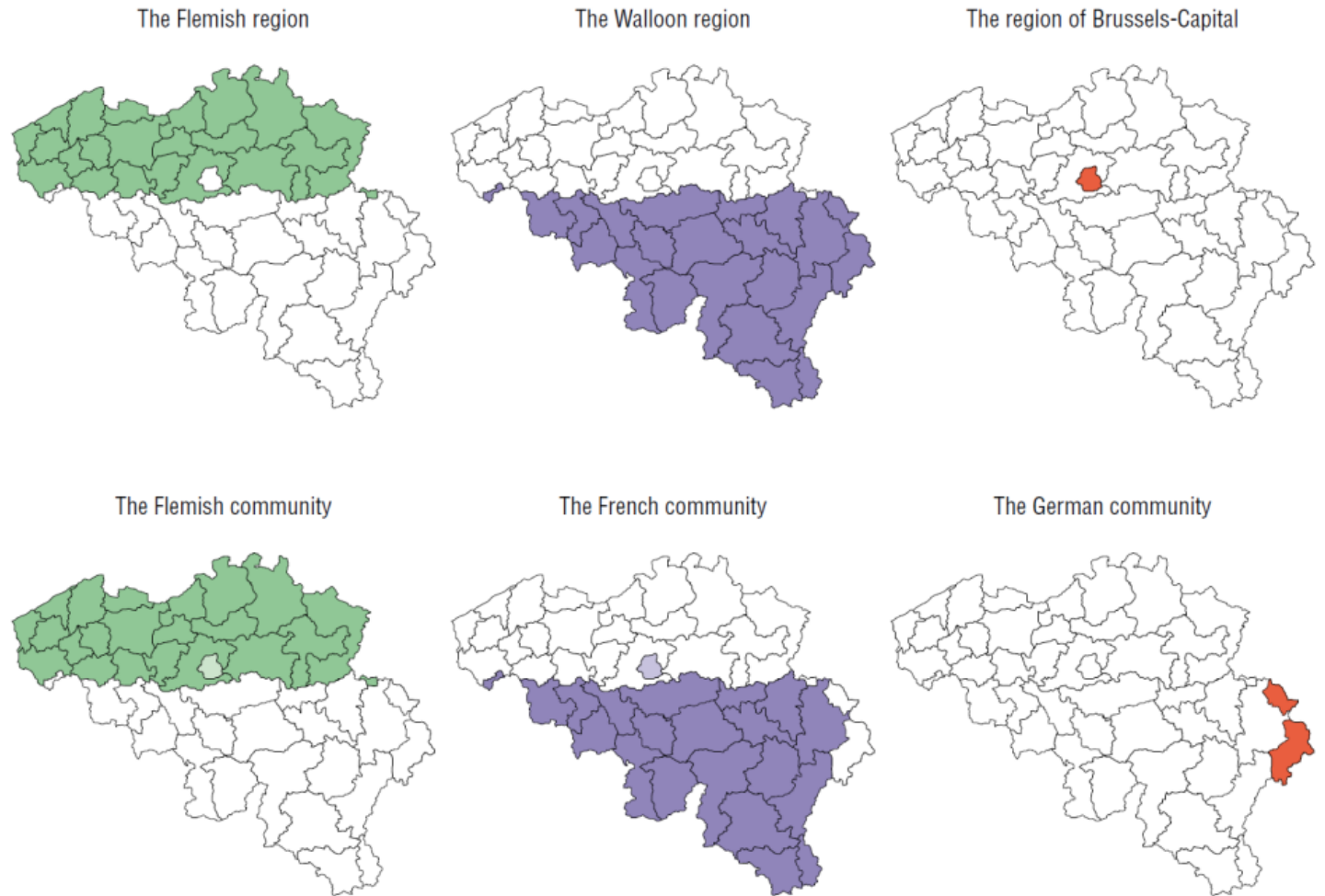
- 30528 km²
- Population +-11,4 million
- Three levels of power:
Federal, Regional, and Local
- Living standards are considered high
- Life expectancy (2018):
Men 79,2 y. Women 83,7 y.
- Important socioeconomic disparities
- Facing an ageing population and immigration



Belgium

- Federal parliamentary democracy
- Divided into
Three region &
Three communities
- 10 provinces
- 581 municipalities

FIG. 1.3 Belgian regions and communities

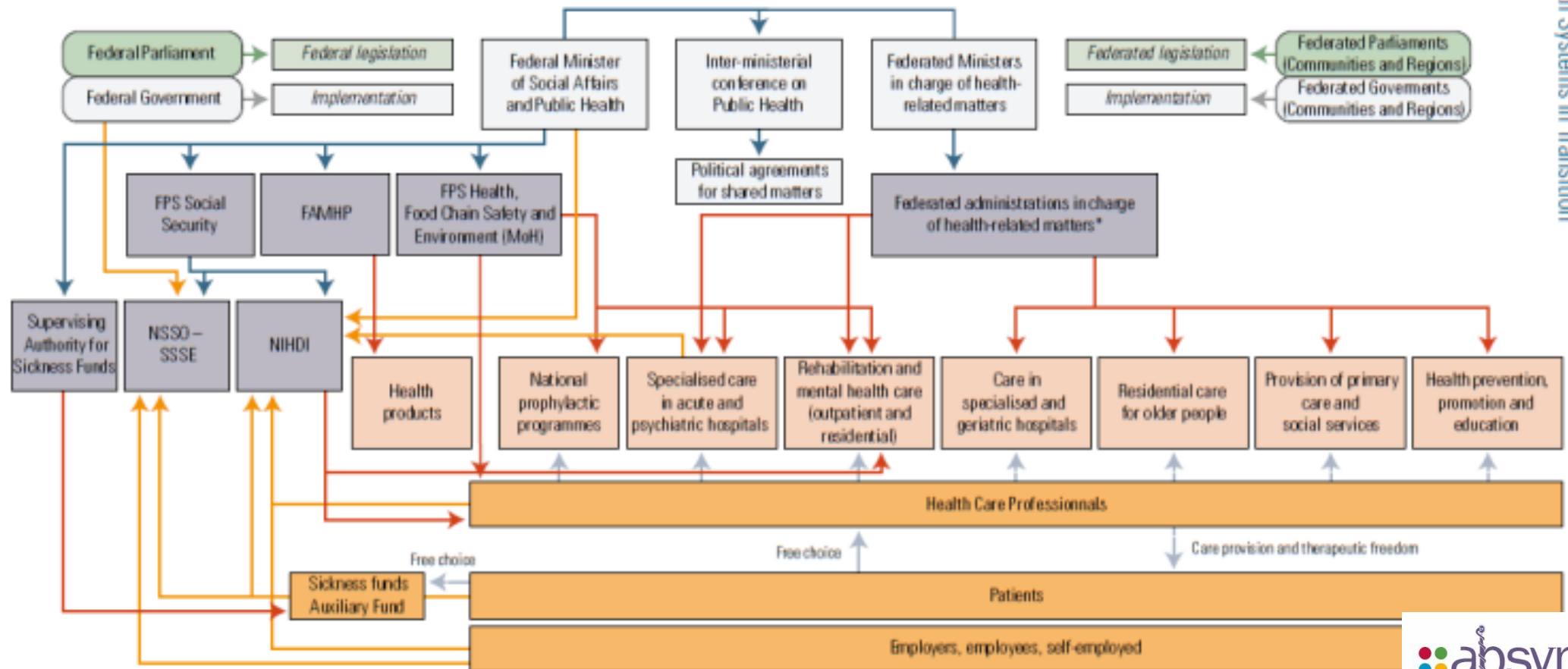


Belgium

- Health policy and regulation is divided among the Federal state and the federated entities
 - More than 20% of the health budget has been transferred to the federated entities
 - The covid-19 pandemic highlighted a serious problem of decision-making and management related to the multiplicity and dispersion of responsibilities and stakeholders in public health issues and in particular in case of a health crisis

Belgium

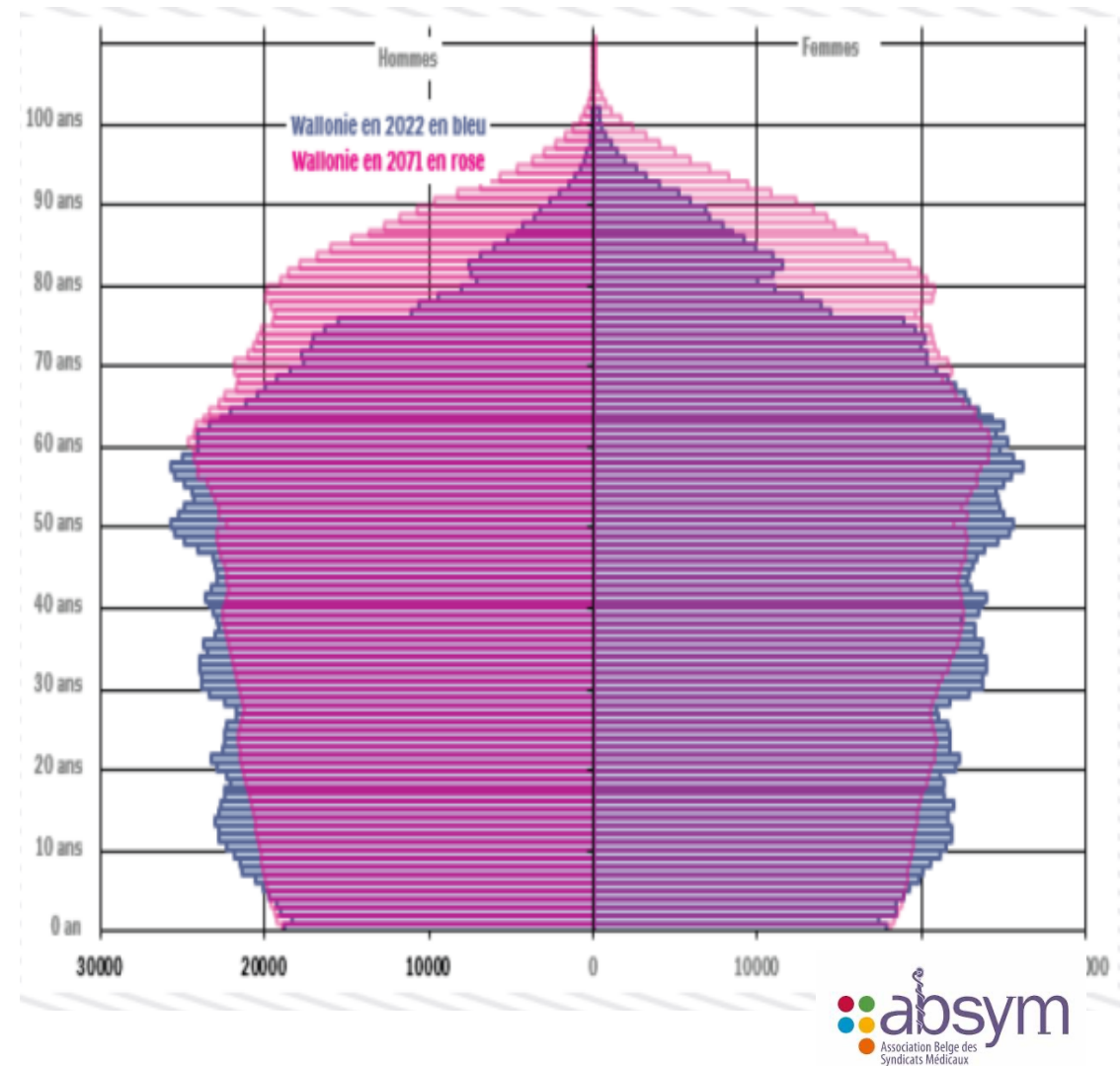
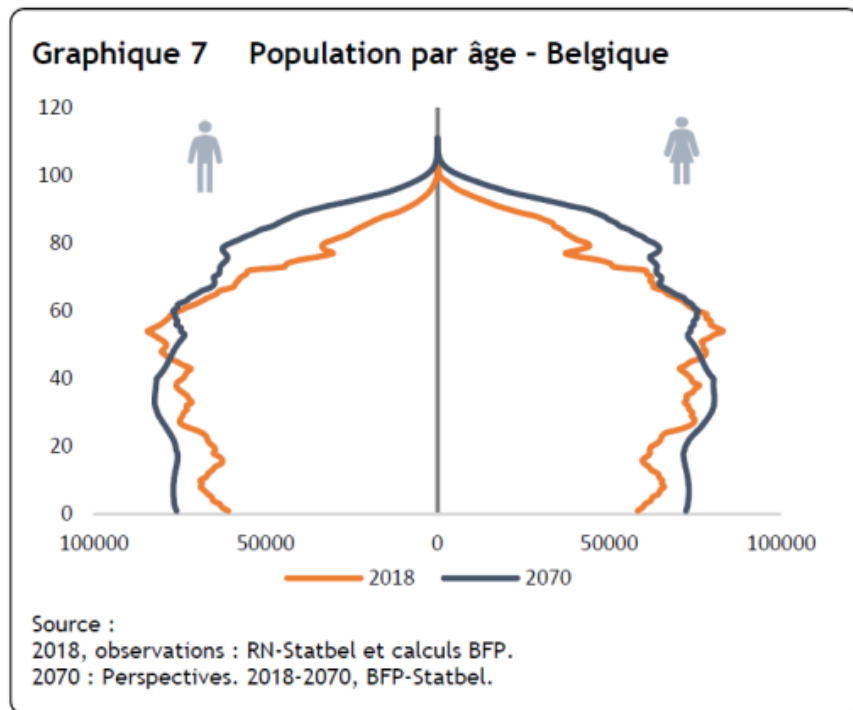
FIG. 2.1 Overview of the health system: organisational relationships between the main actors (simplified schema)



Belgium

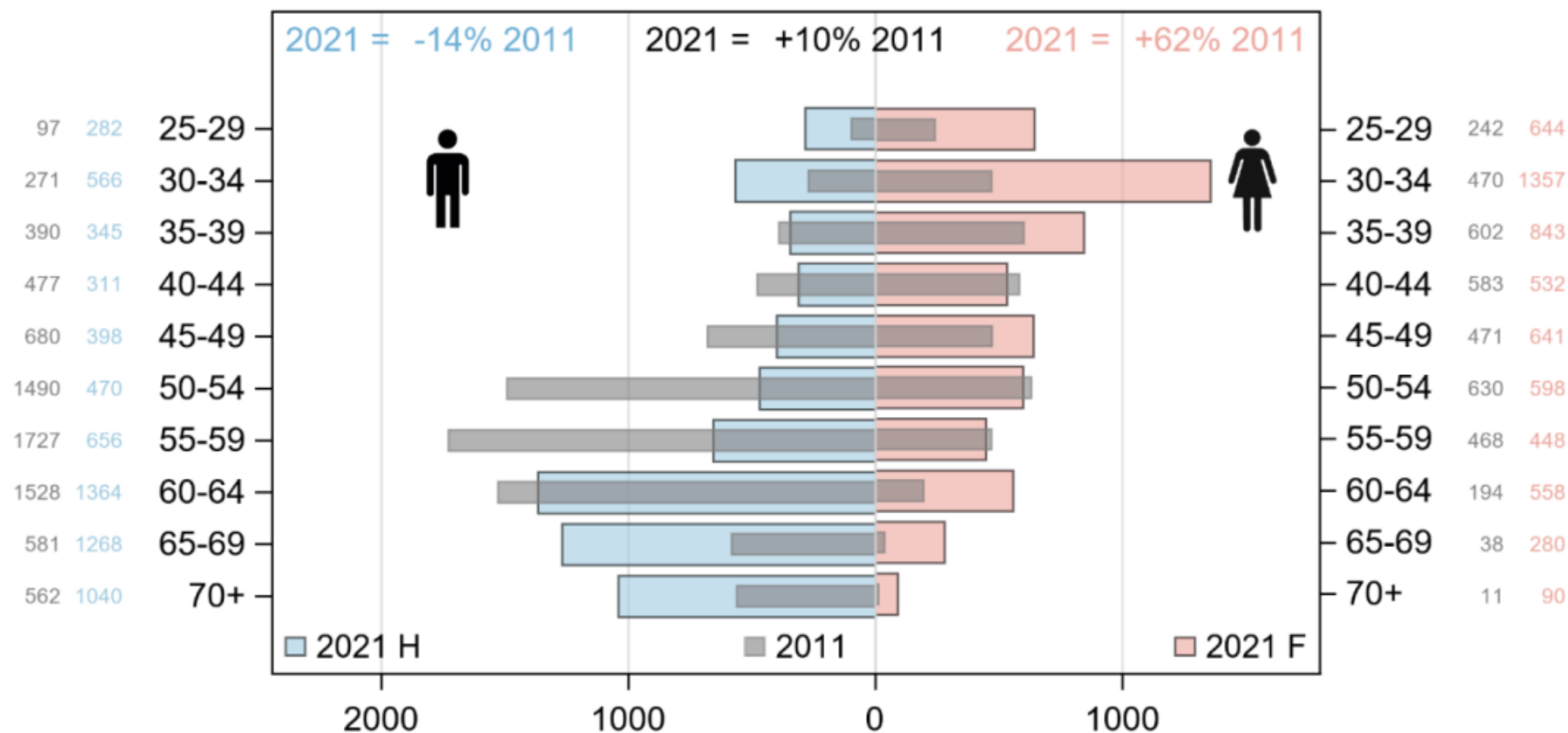
- The health care system relies on a model of compulsory health insurance, administered by sickness funds.
 - 99% of Belgian residents is covered with no selection of health risks.
- Reimbursed health care services are provided by both public and private institutions and individual health care providers.
- Approximately every two years, health practitioners can choose between a conventioned or non-conventioned status which allows for an extra-billing charge under certain conditions.
- The patients rights are enriched in a law.

Belgium: ageing of the population



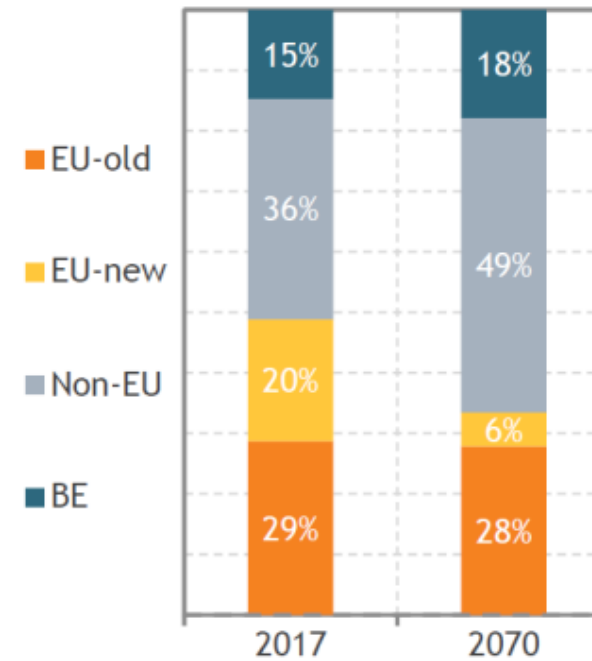
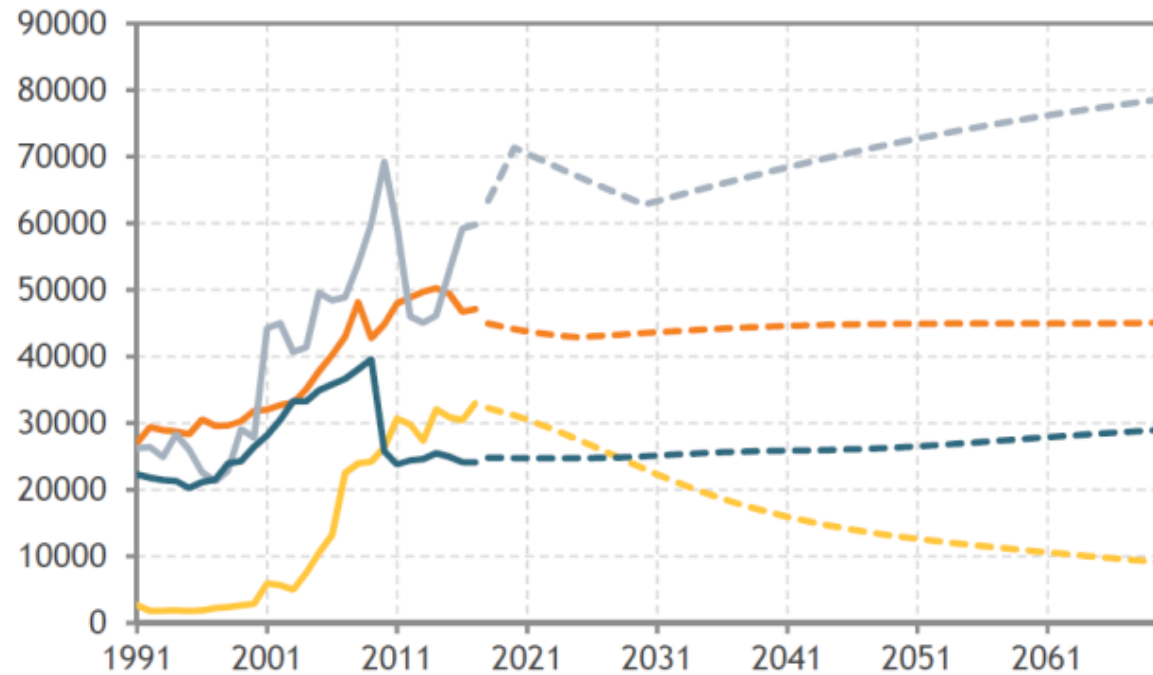
Belgium: aging of the medical profession

Figure 2. Comparaison des pyramides des âges des médecins généralistes actifs dans les soins de santé, pour la Belgique, 2011 vs 2021



Belgium: facing immigration

Graphique 4 Immigration internationale selon la nationalité des individus - Belgique



Source :

1991-2017, observations : RN-Statbel et calculs BFP.

2018-2070 : Perspectives démographiques 2018-2070, BFP-Statbel.

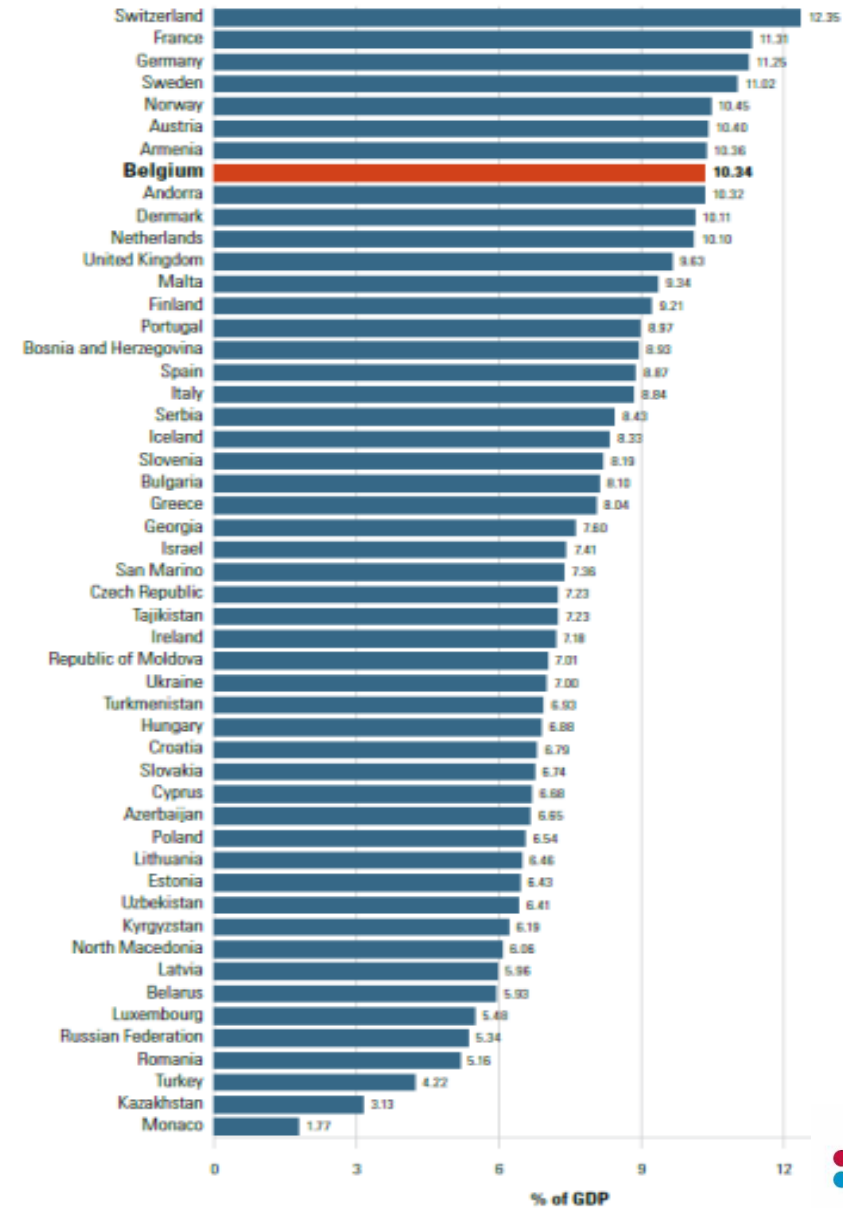
Note :

Le choc en 2010 pour l'immigration des personnes de nationalité belge est expliqué par un changement de définition de l'immigration ; changement qui affecte en particulier la statistique d'immigration des personnes de nationalité belge.

Belgium: Cost and Financing of the Health Care System.

- Represent 10,3% of GDP
- 77,2% public funds
- 17,6% out-of-pocket payments
- 5,1 % voluntary health insurance

FIG. 3.1 Current health expenditure as a share (%) of GDP in the WHO European Region, 2017



Belgium

FIG. 3.2 Trends in current health expenditure as a share (%) of GDP in Belgium and selected countries, 2000–2017

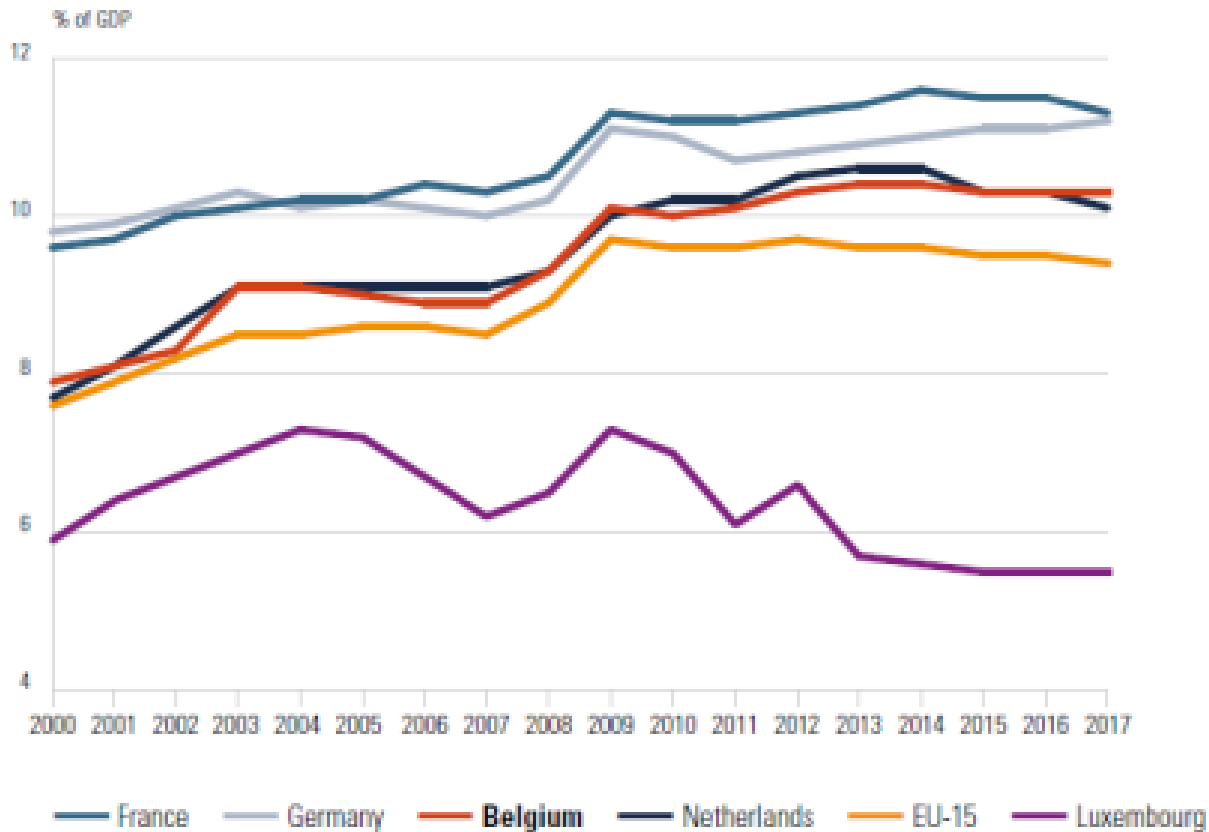
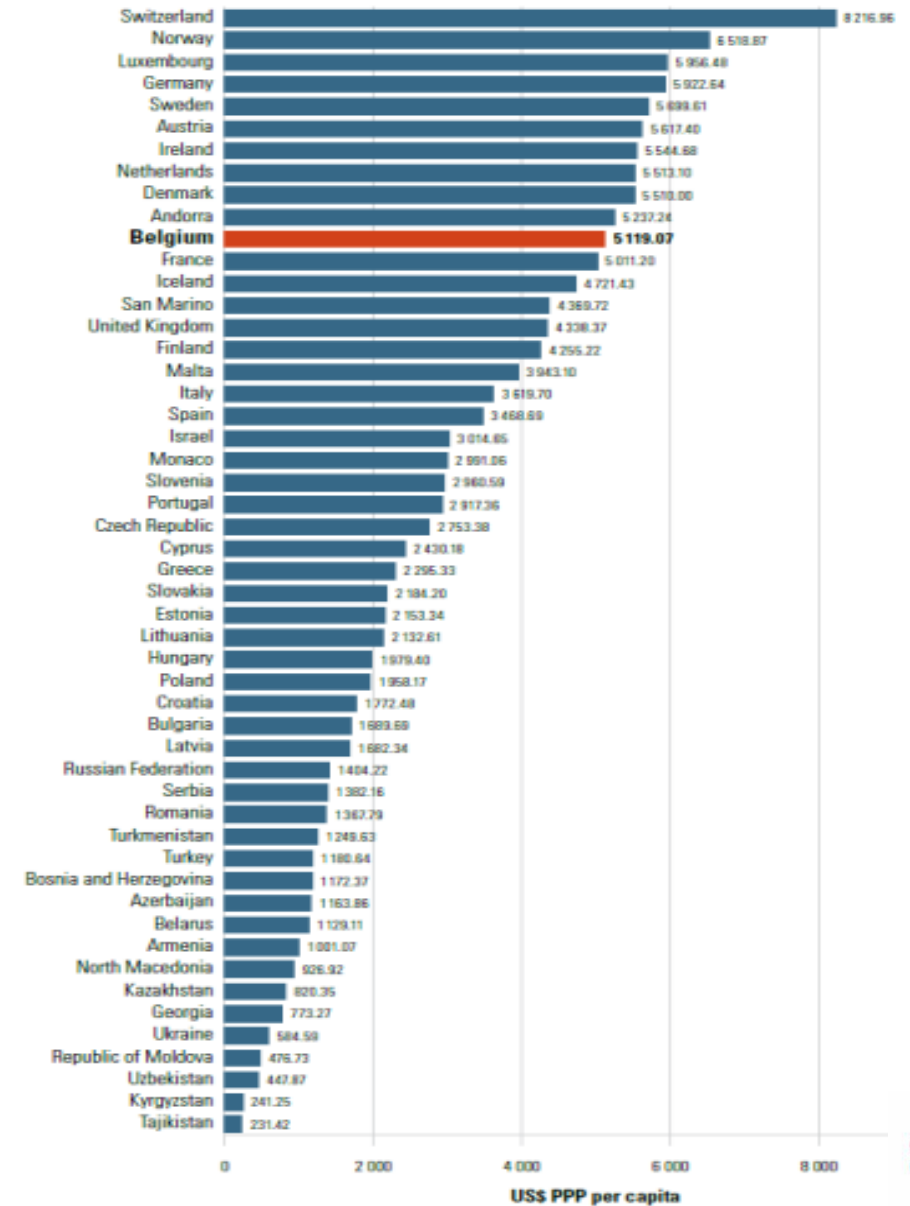
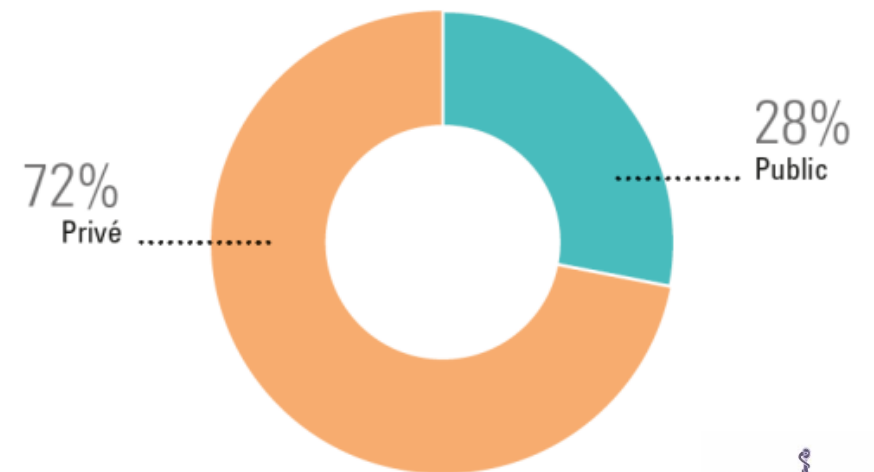
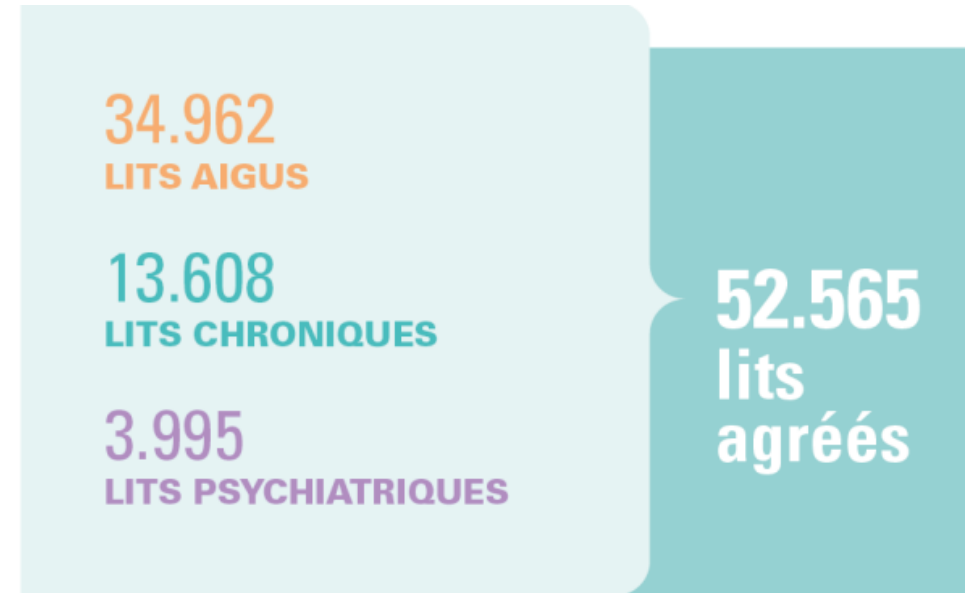
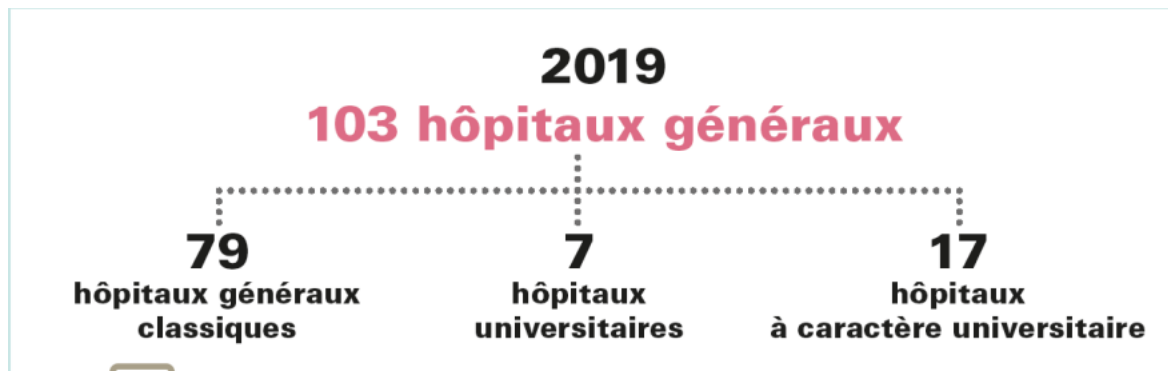


FIG. 3.3 Current health expenditure in US\$PPP per capita in the WHO European Region, 2017



Belgian hospital system



Belgian hospital system

FIG. 4.2 Geographical distribution of hospital sites in Belgium (December 2018)

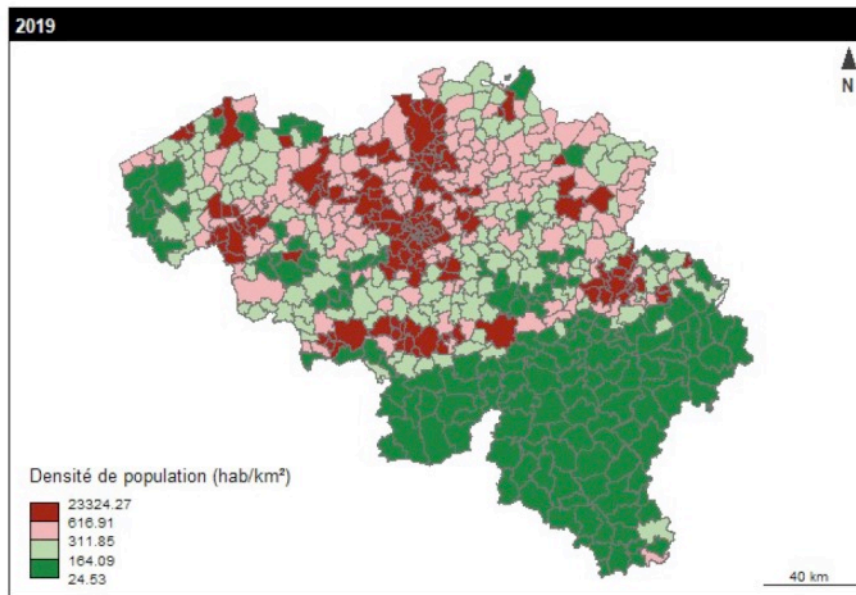
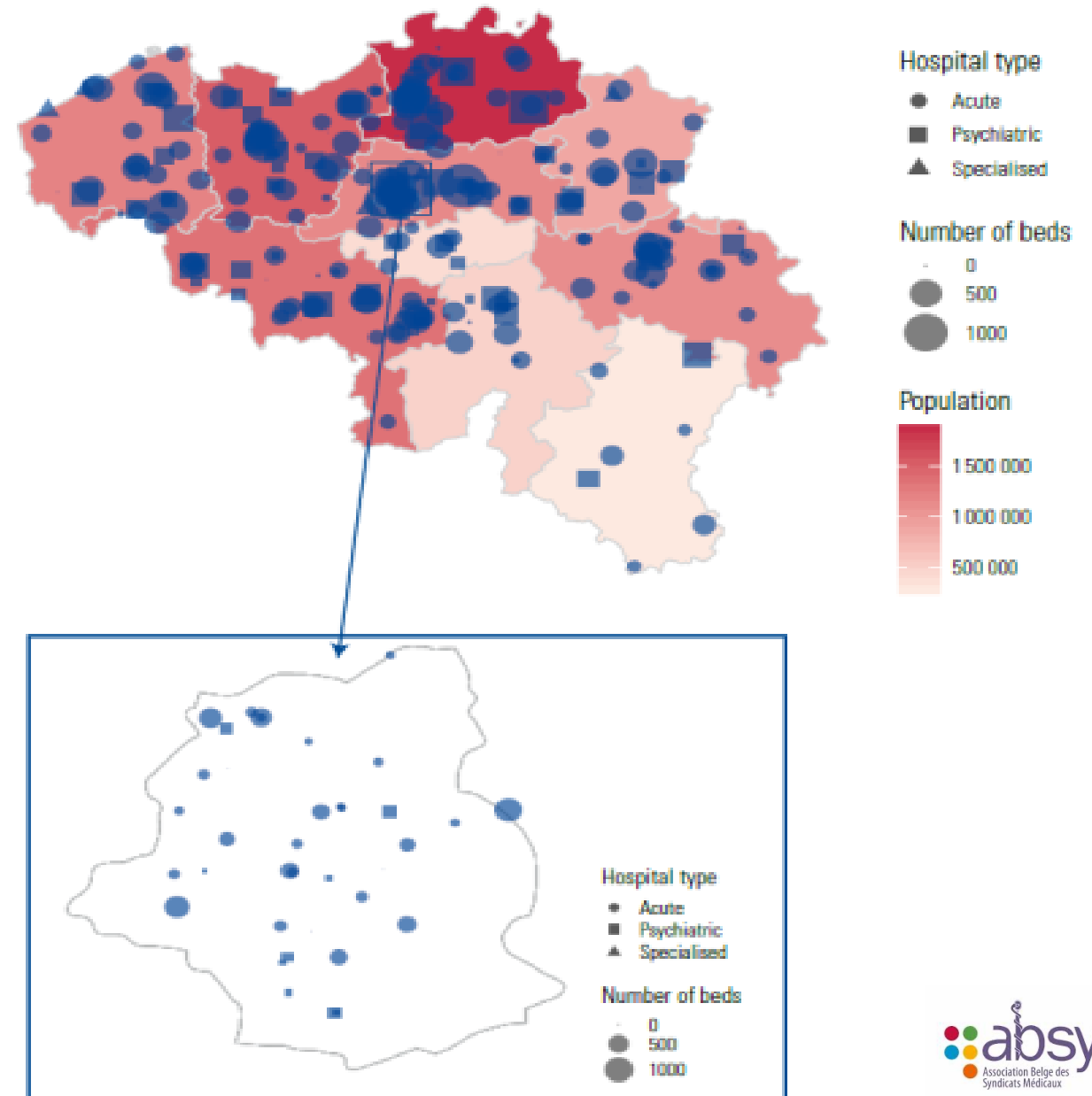


FIGURE 4.9 – Densité de population belge en 2019



Belgian hospital system

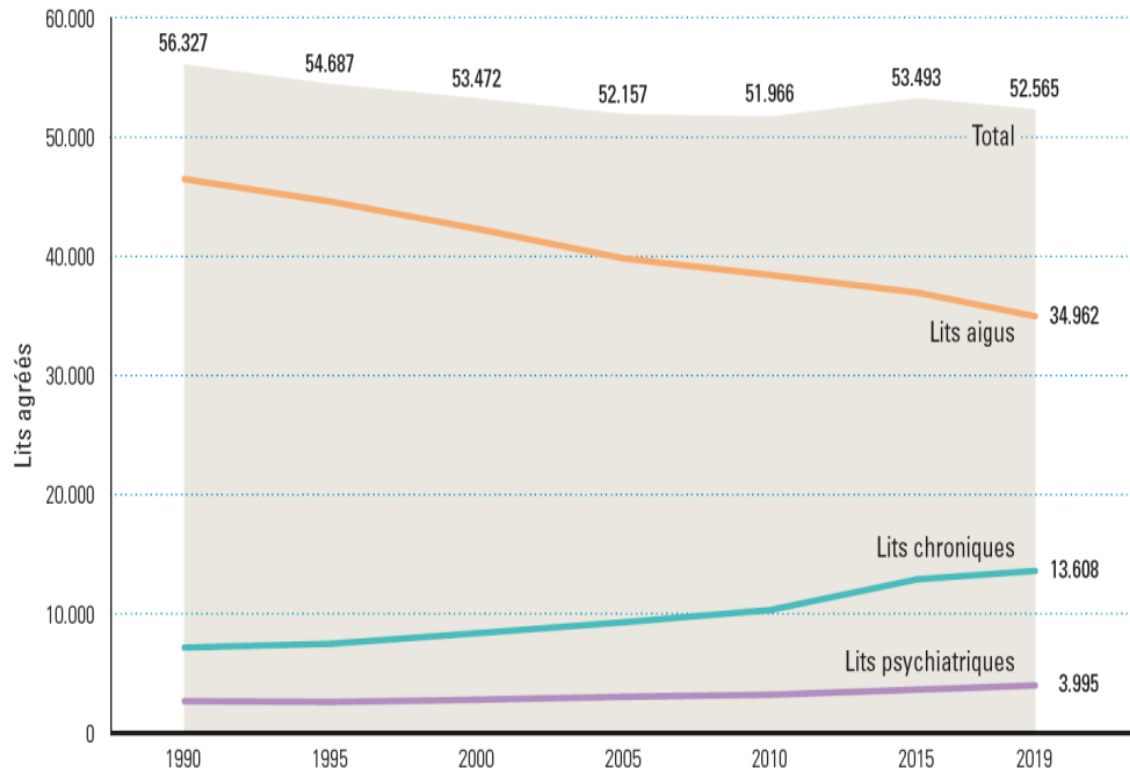
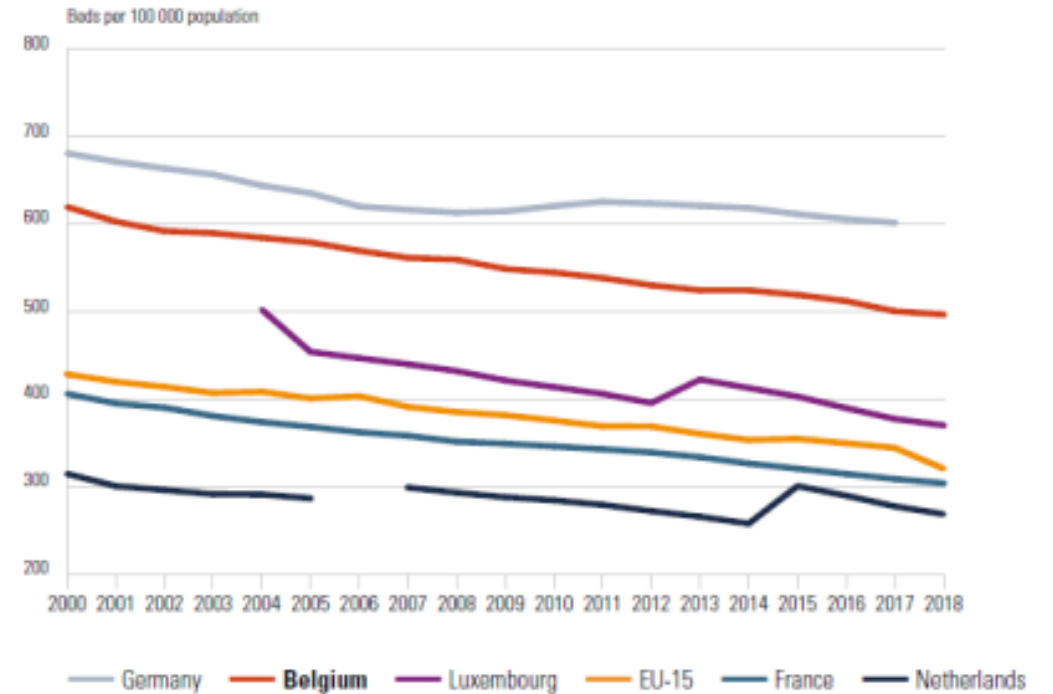


FIG. 4.1 Curative care beds in hospitals per 100 000 population in Belgium and selected countries, 2000–2018



Belgian Medical Staff

Spécialités / professions	En droit de prêter 31-12-2021			Pratique 2021	En formation 2021		Densité 2021
	65 et +	- 65	Total	Nombre	Nombre	%	/ 10.000 hab.
Médecins	14.615	36.343	50.958	37.630	8.873	24%	32,8
Médecins généralistes	5.953	11.430	17.383	13.952	2.364	17%	12,2
Pédiatres	561	1.583	2.144	1.631	518	32%	1,4
Gynécologues	524	1.372	1.896	1.566	372	24%	1,4
Psychiatres	828	1.661	2.489	2.011	496	25%	1,8
Groupe médical	3.559	9.624	13.183	10.596	2.668	25%	9,2
Groupe chirurgical	2.323	7.185	9.508	7.353	2.455	33%	6,4
Médecins non spécialisés	867	3.488	4.355	521	-	0%	0,5
Autres professions de la santé	28.618	182.333	210.951	96.965	478	0%	84,6
Pharmaciens	4.155	15.176	19.331	15.174	-	-	13,2
Dentistes	3.162	7.700	10.862	8.926	478	5%	7,8
Infirmiers et sages-femmes	12.800	100.020	112.820	35.503	-	-	31,0
Kinésithérapeutes	5.972	35.313	41.285	25.018	-	-	21,8
Professions paramédicales	2.529	24.124	26.653	12.344	-	-	10,8
Total général	43.233	218.676	261.909	134.595	9.351	7%	117,4

Belgian Medical Staff

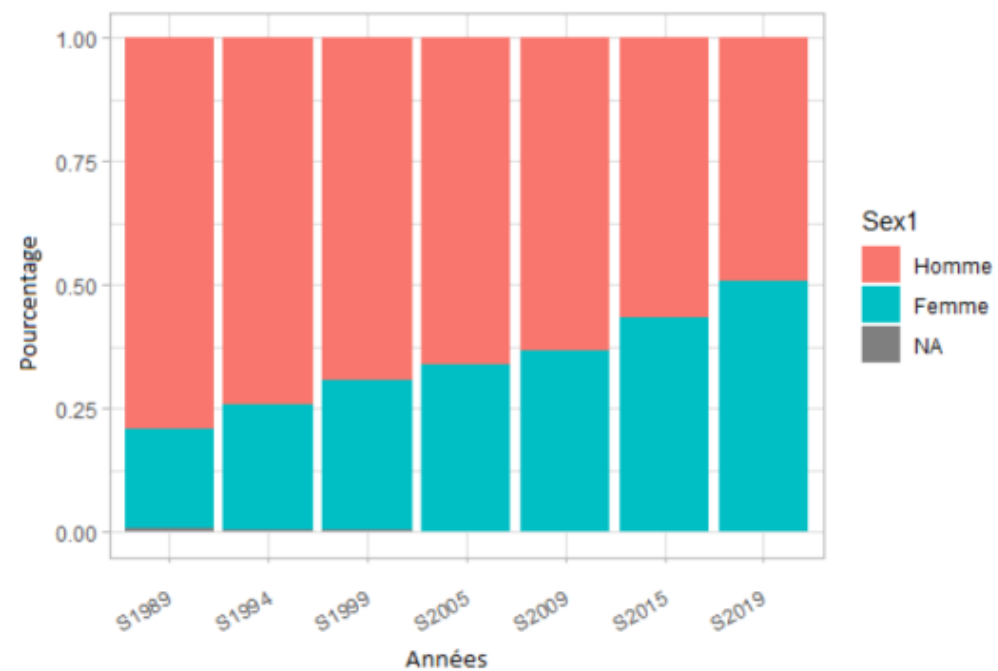


Figure 2. Comparaison des pyramides des âges des médecins généralistes actifs dans les soins de santé, pour la Belgique, 2011 vs 2021



Belgian Medical Staff

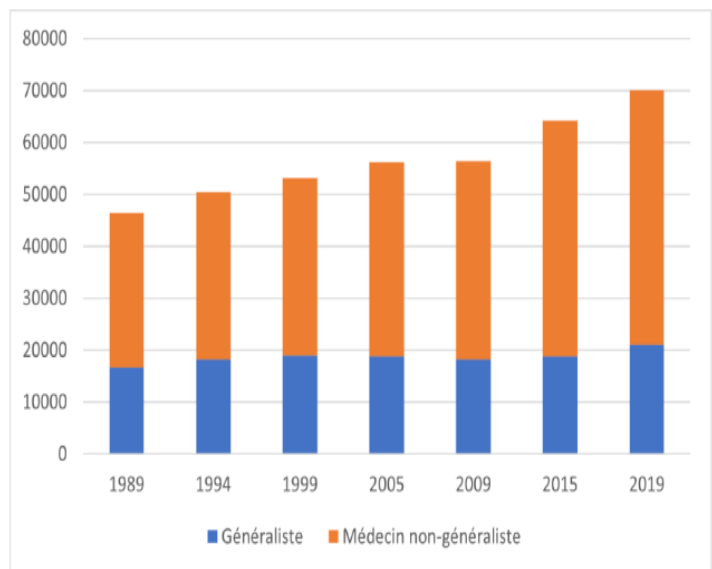
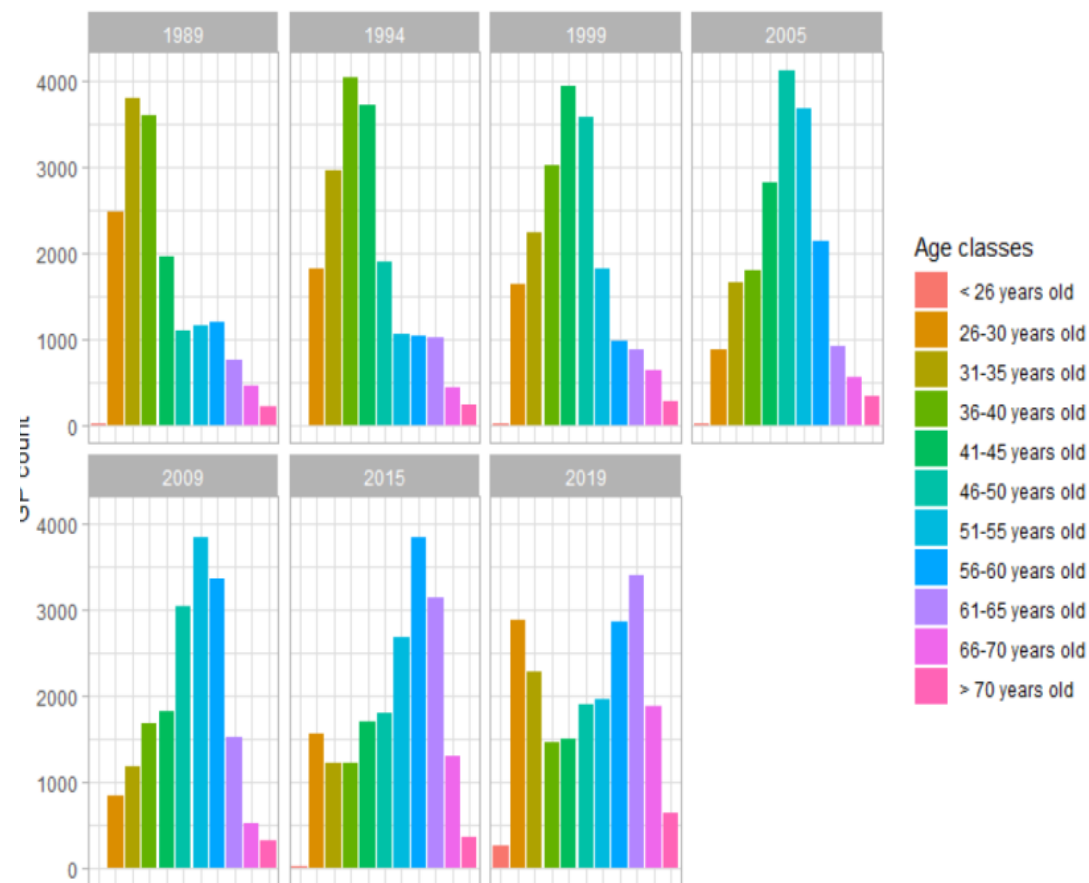


FIGURE 4.1 – Évolution du nombre d'activités de médecins en Belgique entre 1989 et 2019



– Âge des médecins généralistes par classes d'âges de 5 ans en Belgique entre 1989 et 2019



departure of the
bus at 7pm sharp

